Meeting Notes

A public meeting was held at 11:00 AM on May 15, 2019 in Conference Room A at Portsmouth City Hall for the subject project. A record of the discussion follows:

Terry Desmarais, City Engineer, gave an introduction to the meeting and outlined the topics of discussion, including work completed since the last meeting, work to be completed in the coming month, work anticipated in the next six months, construction cost to date, summary of Consent Decree milestones, events and recreation, and public input.

The members of the Project Team in attendance introduced themselves, and included:

- Terry Desmarais, City Engineer
- Patrick Wiley, Wastewater Operations Manager
- Jon Pearson, AECOM Project Manager
- Robert Dahlinghaus, AECOM Resident Representative

Terry noted that to obtain additional information regarding the project, there is a project website that can be accessed through www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/wastewater/peirce-island-wastewater-facility/peirce-island-wastewater-facility-upgrade-project. The website is updated weekly with news and recreational information and contains a link to a reporting form that can be used to provide feedback or notify the City of any issues associated with the project. Terry Desmarais, City Engineer, is the point of contact for the City.

Jon discussed work that has been completed this month. He noted areas where work is ongoing at the site, including:

- Yard Piping / Utility Service
- Grit Building
- Solids Building
- Biological Aerated Filter (BAF) Building
- Chlorine Contact Tanks / Effluent Distribution Box

Jon reviewed photos of construction progress, including:

- Site Overview – Existing conditions of the Peirce Island Wastewater Treatment Facility in November 2016. Prior to construction, the treatment process consisted of the Aerated Grit Chambers, followed by the Primary Clarifiers and Chlorine Contact Tanks.
Yard Piping and Utility Service - Work to install yard piping and electrical ductbanks between the Grit Building, Solids Building and BAF Building is in progress.

Grit Building & Aerated Grit Chambers – Work to install new mechanical process, HVAC and electrical equipment in the Grit Building is in progress; this includes but is not limited to the installation of the thickened sludge pumps. Structural and architectural modifications to the building are also in progress. Efforts to keep the Grit Building operational during equipment replacement are ongoing.

BAF Building – Installation of mechanical process piping within the BAF cells, Pipe Gallery, and mechanical process spaces is in progress. Work to install the mechanical process valves and slide gates is in progress. Work to install electrical equipment within the Blower and Electrical Rooms is in progress, this includes but is not limited to the installation of the Motor Control Center and various control panels. Masonry work on the brick façade the building is in progress.

Solids Building – Installation of mechanical process piping and installation of mechanical process equipment in the Pump Gallery and Upper Level is underway; this includes but is not limited to the primary sludge pumps and grinders, screw press feed pump and grinders, and various process piping. Work to install the screw presses, cake screw conveyors and associated slide gates in the Dewatering Room and Sludge Truck Bay in in progress. Work to construct and isolate chemical areas is underway this includes the application of protective coatings. Work to install electrical equipment within the Electrical Room is in progress. Plumbing, HVAC, and electrical work on the Lower Level and Upper Level is underway. Work to install the brick façade is in progress. Concrete placement for the odor control pad has been completed.

Jon noted that the Consent Decree second interim milestone of the startup and testing of the Secondary Influent Pumps in the Solids Building was achieved this past month and was completed on schedule. The four secondary influent pumps were able to pump water from the wet well to the BAF Building.

Bob discussed work anticipated for the coming month, including:

- Continue minor finish work in the Headworks Building.
- Continue architectural, structural, mechanical process, HVAC, plumbing, and electrical construction in the Grit Building.
- Startup the new polymer system in the Grit Building.
- Continue installation of process piping in the pipe gallery and Stage 2 of the BAF Building.
- Continue mechanical and electrical work throughout the BAF Building.
- Continue installation of slide gates in the BAF cells.
- Begin installation of stairs in the BAF and Solids Buildings.
- Continue masonry work on the BAF Building and Solids Building.
- Continue installation and testing of equipment and process piping in the Solids Building.
- Continue electrical, HVAC and plumbing work in the Solids Building.
- Continue painting of walls and ceilings in the Solids Building.
- Complete underground piping installation between the Grit Building, Solids Building and BAF Building.
- Continue formwork and reinforcing for the Effluent Distribution Box wall.

Bob then discussed the work anticipated through April and into October 2019, including:
• Grit Building – Interior: Complete selective architectural, structural and mechanical process modifications. Complete installation of electrical and control wiring. Complete installation and turnover of new chemical systems (ferric chloride and polymer). Complete installation of mechanical process piping and equipment. Exterior: Complete work on the yard piping associated with the building and installation of exterior features such as doors and windows.

• BAF Building – Continue installation of mechanical process piping and equipment, electrical, plumbing, and HVAC systems, this includes the Boiler Room, Mechanical Room, and Blower Room. Continue interior painting and protective coatings. Complete water testing of the BAF cells. Complete masonry work, including installation of CMU walls on both ends of the building for the stairways and buildout of rooms. Complete installation of precast roof planks, roofing system and brick façade. Complete installation of yard piping associated with the BAF Building and backfilling around the building.

• Solids Building – Complete work on interior mechanical process piping and equipment. Complete installation of chemical systems. Complete interior painting and protective coatings Complete installation of yard piping and underground utilities in and around the Solids Building. Complete masonry work, including installation of brick façade. Complete installation of precast roof planks and roofing system. Complete installation of exterior features, including windows and doors.

• Sanitary Pump Station No. 1 – Complete associated yard piping and installation of pumps within the structure.


• Chlorine Contact Tank/Effluent Distribution Box – Complete installation of new slide gates.

• Underground Piping and Utility Services – Complete yard piping from the Primary Clarifiers to the BAF Building, Solids Building, and Primary Clarifier Effluent Distribution Box. Complete the electrical and communication ductbanks towards the BAF and Solids Buildings. Begin installation of utility connections to the Operations Building. Begin preparation for paved areas, this include placing the binder course pavement from the Grit Building down to the BAF Building.

• Misc. Areas – Complete modifications to the Primary Clarifier Effluent Distribution Box, including but not limited to, selective demolition, application of coatings and installation of new slide gates. Complete installation of the Flow Meter Vault that is adjacent to the generator.

Jon provided an update on the project construction cost:

• Original Contract: $72.786 million
• Change Order No. 1: $0.367 million
• Change Order No. 2: $0.547 million
• Change Order No. 3: $0.093 million
• Change Order No. 4: $0.163 million
• Change Order No. 5: $0.250 million
• Change Order No. 6: $0.292 million
• Change Order No. 7: $0.169 million
• Total Contract: $74.667 million

Jon provided a summary of the project milestones set by the Consent Decree:
• Execute Contract for Construction Upgrades - Date: 9/1/2016 - Status: Complete
• Submit Two Additional Milestones for EPA Review and Approval - Date: 12/1/2016 - Status: Complete
• Additional Milestone 1: Transfer of the Existing SCADA system to the New Headworks Building - Date: 11/21/2017 - Status: Complete
• Additional Milestone 2: Startup and Testing of the Secondary Influent Pump Station in the New Solids Building - Date: 5/9/2019 - Status: Complete
• BAF Substantial Completion - Date: 12/1/2019 - Status: On Schedule
• Achieve Compliance with NPDES Permit Limits - Date: 4/1/2020 - Status: On Schedule

Terry noted that although compliance with the NPDES permit limit is scheduled for April 2020, construction will continue past this date with substantial completion in September 2020.

Jon noted that the project team is continuing to coordinate construction with community events. Upcoming events this month include the Lilac Festival, 22nd Annual Runners Alley/Cisco Brewers Memorial 5k, Race to Educate, Piscataqua River Festival & Round Island Regatta, Market Square Day Festival & 10k Road Race – Pro Portsmouth, American Volkssport Association 10k Walk, Yoga in the Park, Big Brother/Big Sister Annual Stilleto Sprint, Concert in the Lot, and Strawbery Banke Events.

There were no questions or comments from the public during the public input portion of the meeting.

The next public construction meeting will be on June 19, 2019 at 11:00 AM in Conference Room A at Portsmouth City Hall.

These notes present a summary of the items discussed at the meeting and are not a transcript of the meeting.